

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3787

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CONFIDENTIAL LISBON 4674

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: COPCON OFFICERS REPLY TO ANTUNES DOCUMENT

REF: (A) FBIS LONDON 140205Z AUG 75; (B) LISBON 3748

SUMMARY: AN UNIDENTIFIED GROUP OF COPCON OFFICERS HAS RELEASED A PAPER CALLING FOR THE RADICALIZATION OF PORTUGUESE SOCIETY AS THE ONLY MEANS OF RESOLVING THE COUNTRY'S CURRENT CRISIS. PAPER IS IMPORTANT STATEMENT OF THE POSITION OF THE LEFT NATIONALIST GROUP WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. THERE IS SOME INDICATION THAT DURING MEETING THE LEFT NATIONALISTS AND THE ANTUNES GROUP AGREED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER MUST GO.  
END SUMMARY.

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1. AN UNIDENTIFIED GROUP OF COPCON OFFICERS RELEASED A PAPER,

ON AUGUST 13, WHICH ADVOCATES A SHARP TURN TO THE LEFT AS THE ONLY MEANS OF RESOLVING PORTUGAL'S PRESENT POLITICAL CRISIS (REF A). THE DOCUMENT, ENTITLED "A BLUEPRINT FOR A POLITICAL PROGRAM," IS A CLEAR RESPONSE TO MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT. COPCON PAPER WAS DISCUSSED AT AUGUST 13 MEETING OF SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS, INCLUDING THE COMMANDERS OF PORTUGAL'S THREE MILITARY REGIONS, AND PRESIDED OVER BY GEN OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DOCUMENT FOLLOW:

--ECONOMY: GENERAL DETERIORATION OF ECONOMY IS BEHIND CURRENT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL INSTABILITY. DETERIORATION IS DUE PRIMARILY TO FAILURE OF AFM TO DEFINE POLITICAL GOALS AND LACK OF CONSISTENT GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES. SPECIFICALLY, NO STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO FILL VOID LEFT BY PARTIAL DISMANTLING OF CAPITALIST ECONOMY IN PORTUGAL.

PRIMARY GOALS OF PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC POLICY SHOULD BE AGRICULTURAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY, AND FINANCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL INDEPENDENCE FROM "IMPERIALIST WEST." ACCEPTANCE OF EEC AND EFTA AID IS SPECIFICALLY REJECTED.

--POLITICAL MODELS: PREVIOUS PATTERNS OF GOVERNMENT BY COALITIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES REJECTED AS UNWORKABLE. POLITICAL INSTABILITY CAN BE SOLVED ONLY BY CONSUMMATION OF UNION OF PEOPLE AND AFM. TO ACHIEVE THIS, POLITICAL POWER MUST BE VESTED IN POPULARLY ELECTED VILLAGE, FACTORY, AND DISTRICT COUNCILS, THROUGH WHICH MEMBERS WILL RESOLVE OWN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. PENDING CREATION OF NATIONAL POPULAR ASSEMBLY, "TRANSITIONAL EXECUTIVE" OF AFM AND ALL "TRULY REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS" SHALL GUIDE COUNTRY.

--SOCIAL MEASURES: TRANSITION TO SOCIALIST SOCIETY WILL REQUIRE SACRIFICE WHICH SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED EVENLY. CELINGS SHOULD BE PLACED ON RENTS; MEDICINE SHOULD BE NATIONALIZED, PRIMARY EDUCATION GUARANTEED, AT EXPENSE OF SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION IF NECESSARY.

--MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT: ANTUNES DOCUMENT CONFUSES POLITICAL SITUATION. IT IGNORES CENTRAL FACT OF CURRENT CRISIS: DANGER POSED BY FASCIST VIOLENCE, PROPOSING SERIES OF "RIGHT WING PALLITIVES" WHICH CANNOT WORK. ANTUNES DEPARTMENT'S EMPHASIS ON STRENGTHENING TIES TO WESTERN EUROPE SEEN AS MORTGAGING PORTUGUESE INDEPENDENCE.

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--FOREIGN AFFAIRS: PORTUGAL SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO ALIGN HERSELF WITH THIRD WORLD.

3. COMMENT: COPCON DOCUMENT IS IMPORTANT STATEMENT OF THE POINT OF VIEW HELD BY LEFT NATIONALISTS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (REF B). AS A RESULT OF AUGUST 13 MEETING OF OFFICERS AT OTELO'S HEADQUARTERS, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE ANTUNES GROUP AND THE COPCON

FACTION, IF ONLY TO THE EXTENT OF AGREEING  
TO THE DESIRABILITY OF GETTING RID OF THE PRIME MINISTER.

4. AS OF EVENING AUGUST 14, POLITICAL SITUATION IS AS FOLLOWS.  
PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, AS HE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR HE WOULD, HAS  
INITIATED CONTACTS WITH THE POLITICAL PARTIES FOR FORMING A  
NEW GOVERNMENT. SOARES REJECTED PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR ANOTHER  
MONTH AND A HALF; CUNHAL MEETS WITH HIM TODAY. THE POSITION OF  
THE ANTUNES GROUP HAS BEEN MUDDIED BY THEIR APPARENT AGREE-  
MENT TO WRITE ANOTHER PAPER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE COPCON  
DOCUMENT AND OTHER CRITICISMS OF THE ANTUNES MANIFESTO. SOCIALISTS  
ARE HOPING FOR MASSIVE DEMONSTRATIONS TONIGHT IN LISBON,  
OPORTO, AND PORTIMAO. SITUATION IS LIKELY TO REMAIN UNRESOLVED FOR  
SOME DAYS MORE UNLESS SOMEBODY TRIES TO FORCE ISSUE-WHICH WE DO NOT  
EXPECT BUT DO NOT EXCLUDE.

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## Message Attributes

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